IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Toshinori NAGAHASHI et al.

Application No.:   New U.S. Patent Application

Filed: December 15, 2003   Docket No.: 118105

For: PICTURE LAYOUT PROCESSING APPARATUS, PICTURE LAYOUT PROCESSING
        METHOD, AND PROGRAM THEREFOR

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

        Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby
directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein,
one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be
expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made
of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

☒   1.   This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of
        the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first
        Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.

☒   2.   Relevance of the non-English language reference 1 is discussed in the present
        specification.

☒   3.   English-language Abstracts of the non-English language references 1 and 2 are
        attached hereto.

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☒   4.   A computer-generated English translation of the following Japanese Patent Publications have been obtained from the website of the Japanese Patent Office ([http://www.jpo.go.jp]), and are attached, but have not been reviewed for accuracy. See References 1 and 2.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 15, 2003

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Form PTO-1449 (REV. 8-83)	US Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY DOCKET NO. 118105	APPLICATION NO. New U.S. Patent Application
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANTS Toshinori NAGAHASHI et al.	
		FILING DATE December 15, 2003	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS
	1	JP A 2000-261649 w/abstr. + trans.	09/22/2000	Japan		
	2	JP A 2001-126070 w/abstr. + trans.	05/11/2001	Japan		

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	3	Ma et al., "Edge Flow: A Framework of Boundary Detection and Image Segmentation," IEEE, pp. 744-749, 1997

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Date: December 15, 2003